

For Immediate Release



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To Banking or Business Editor:

Highest % of Recommended Banks, C.U.s in 4 Years

March 12, 2012: Updated quarterly star-ratings on all U.S. banks and credit unions have just been released by **BAUERFINANCIAL, Inc., the nation's bank rating firm.**

The latest ratings, based on December 31, 2011 financial data, show that the majority of both banks and credit unions were able to weather the financial storm of the past several years and bounce back on top. The percentage of banks earning Bauer's recommended ratings (5-Stars or 4-Stars) stands at 64.5%, a number not seen since the first quarter 2008. Similarly, recommended credit unions represent 73.2% of the industry. That has not been seen since the third quarter 2007.

Of course there is always the other end of the spectrum. Banks rated 2-Stars or below, (and therefore included on *BAUER's Troubled and Problematic Bank Report*) still represent over 11% of the industry; 4% of the nation's credit unions are rated 2-Star and below. While those numbers are improving, they still have a long way to go to get to those pre-crisis levels.

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Members of the press may request a free spreadsheet of all the bank and/or credit union star ratings in their state, along with financial highlights, by emailing research@bauerfinancial.com.